

What kind of people taunt and abuse another human being who is suffering and dying? Either they are the worse sort of human being or the one they mocked is someone guilty of incredibly heinous acts. Another possible explanation is a mob mentality took over those near the cross of Jesus. Do you have any other explanations? Have you ever experience a mob reaction or been swept along with something with which you truly didn't agree? Contemplate these thoughts and write your reaction here.

### **Thursday, February 25**

Read Matthew 27:39-44. The word of contempt or scorn that we considered during the message was "He saved others, he cannot save himself." There are other words of scorn that were flung at Jesus. Consider this brief sentence, "He saved others, he cannot save himself." What is the crux of this word of derision? What is your initial reaction to these words? What does it mean to proclaim that Jesus cannot save himself? Write your reaction to these words here, praying for God's presence and peace.

### **Friday, February 26**

Read Matthew 27:39-44. Passersby, said, "He saved others, he cannot save himself." In their taunting though, unconsciously, their words of contempt paid Jesus a tribute: "He saved others." A series of scenes should pass before our eyes: a blind beggar who regained his sight or ten lepers who were made clean for example. Constantly, for three years, by his teaching, his healing, and his compassion, Jesus saved others. The crowd missed the point when they said, "He cannot save himself." The truth is Jesus saved others by choosing not so save himself. Otherwise, how we truly know the depth of God love? Give thanks for this incredible gift of God given through Jesus the Christ!!

## **Message Notes – February 21, 2021**

### ***Words to the Cross – The Word of Contempt\****

- I. The words Jesus spoke from the cross represent Jesus' true \_\_\_\_\_ as he fulfilled his earthly \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross.
  - A. The phrases uttered by Jesus as he was dying on the cross are representative of the words he spoke throughout his ministry; words of \_\_\_\_\_, forgiveness, anguish and bewilderment, resignation and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. In the midst of one of the most horrifying experiences anyone can have, Jesus keeps his focus on the main thing: God is still God; God is in \_\_\_\_\_; God expects \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. Other words that were spoken near the cross; from \_\_\_\_\_, religious leaders, the \_\_\_\_\_ who placed Jesus on the cross, and a centurion.
  - A. These words to the cross present a rather disjointed series of words that portray contempt, \_\_\_\_\_, faith, \_\_\_\_\_, witness and futility.
  - B. Contemplate what words \_\_\_\_ would say to the cross of Jesus.
  - C. Think about how \_\_\_\_ would actually react to the man Jesus hanging on a cross.
- III. One of the first things you learn as you tour \_\_\_\_\_ is the very practical problem of pinpointing just where certain events occurred.
  - A. There are two possible sites believed to be the place where Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_.
    1. One site is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Sepulchre.
    2. The other is known as \_\_\_\_\_ Calvary.
  - B. Jesus and the two thieves beside him died by a \_\_\_\_\_ road.
  - C. Those who passed by could be as close as \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Matthew 27:39-44

- feet from Jesus' face if they dare to look up and into the eyes of the one who saved others
- IV. The first word to the cross is not a \_\_\_\_\_ word; it's a word of contempt.
- The goal of Lent is not to please us or \_\_\_\_\_ us.
  - There were three directions from which contempt was \_\_\_\_\_ at Jesus.
  - They said, "He saved others, he \_\_\_\_\_ save himself!"
    - What kind of people pass by a human being who is in tortuous pain and \_\_\_\_\_ him?
    - We might understand this cruelty if Jesus was representative of the \_\_\_\_\_ of society
- V. In their taunting though, unconsciously, their words of contempt paid Jesus a \_\_\_\_\_: "He saved others."
- They missed the \_\_\_\_\_ when they followed with the words, "He cannot save himself."
  - The truth is plain: Jesus saves us because he \_\_\_\_\_ not to save himself.
  - Otherwise, how would we know the depth of God's \_\_\_\_\_, the breadth of God's compassion and the end to which God would go so that we would know life and life abundant?

## *Daily Devotional Guide*

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, February 22**

Have you ever heard of the Seven Last Words of Christ? They are the last words that Jesus spoke as he was dying on the cross that first Good Friday. You can easily Google them or otherwise find them online. The phrases uttered by Jesus as he was dying on the cross are representative of the words he spoke throughout his ministry; words of caring, forgiveness, anguish and bewilderment,

resignation and acceptance. They represent Jesus' true nature as he fulfilled his earthly mission on the cross. Even as Jesus was dying in the most horrifying way he portrayed love and care as well as obedience to God's will. Think of the faith that Jesus possessed as they nailed him on the cross. His life would have tremendous meaning. How are your core values maintained when you are experience stress and pain? Are they consistent with other, better times in your life? Contemplate these questions and write your response here.

### **Tuesday, February 23**

Yesterday we considered the Seven Last Words of Christ. Today we will consider the words of others who were near to the cross of Christ. They were words spoken to Jesus, about Jesus or in response to others who were also there. You can look through the scriptures to see what many of these words are, but before you do, pause for a moment and contemplate what words you believe might have been said while Jesus hung on a nearby cross. What words would you say? Put yourself in the place of those who were there 20 centuries ago. What can you imagine you might say to Jesus, about Jesus to the others near you? Write your thoughts here.

### **Wednesday, February 24**

Read Matthew 27:39-44. The first word to the cross we considered is not a pleasant word. But then Lent isn't really meant to be a pleasant time. People often give something up in an attempt of self-denial or they add something to their daily routine, perhaps exercise or reading the Bible every day. The first word is a word of contempt. Jesus was derided and mocked by many who watched him die.